



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,466	12/13/2001	Alexander Sergeyevich Gybin	2970.101US01	5256
7590	07/28/2004		EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903			MCDOWELL, SUZANNE E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1732	

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/017,466	GYBIN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Suzanne E. McDowell	1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/1/02.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 19 and 20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without traverse** in the reply filed on 4/23/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Breeden (US Patent 4,144,300) in view of Van Iseghem et al. (US Patent 5,334,485). Breeden teaches the basic method of forming a master by providing a substrate, applying a photoresist thereon, exposing the resist to a light source, after the resist is developed, removing the soft portion of the resist by a water rinse, drying and baking the pattern, and then chemically etching to form the finished pattern or master, which can then be used for casting (column 3, lines 4-17 and column 4, lines 24-55). Regarding claim 1, it is generally well known in the art to leave a step out of a process, depending upon the desired finished product. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the method taught by Breeden to form a master which is not chemically etched, in order to form a surface of hardened resist material.

Regarding claims 4-13, Breeden does not teach the limitations of the photoinitiator as claimed. Van Iseghem et al. teaches a photocurable composition which may be used with visible light or ultraviolet, which may contain 1 to 60% of a photopolymer (column 14, lines 63-65), and the photopolymer may have styrl (column 6, lines 48-55), acrylates (column 9, lines 14-31), and/or plasticizer (column 15, lines 19-38). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the composition taught by Van Iseghem et al. to modify the method taught by Breeden in

Art Unit: 1732

order to form a surface of hardened resist material that does not need to be chemically etched, resulting in a quicker process.

Regarding claim 18, Breeden does not teach that the master is used to form flexographic printing plates. It is generally well known in the art to use the photoresist method to form flexographic printing plates. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to sue the method taught by Breeden to form a master with any desired pattern, to produce a flexographic printing plate in a quick and easy process.

Conclusion

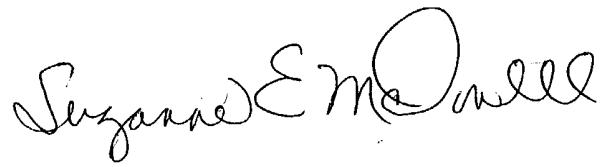
4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hu et al. (US Patent 6,579,664) and Loerzer et al. (US Patent 5,593,811), which teach using photoresist to form printing plates.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne E. McDowell whose telephone number is (571) 272-1205. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W, Th 6:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Colaianni can be reached on (571) 272-1196. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SEM
July 26, 2004



SUZANNE E. McDOWELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER